

**Food Additives and Contaminants** (Journal). Taylor and Francis, London. Subscription: £37 per annum (four issues).

The most difficult part of setting up a new journal is to establish the correct 'scope'. If it is too narrow and specialized it will only be relevant to a very small sector of the scientific community and will therefore fail commercially, whereas, if it is too broad, individual workers will only be interested in a small part of it and it will fade into the background as yet another food journal. One way to overcome this problem, or at least to defer it, is to use a general title and then hint at what is required in the Editorial and information to authors. This approach allows market forces to mould the journal and also allows changes in the future. From a study of the first issue of this journal it would appear that this is the policy which has been adopted. The title of the journal, *Food Additives and Contaminants* covers an enormous range from preservatives, colorants, surfactants and emulsifiers, on the one hand, to minor contaminants (mainly toxic) on the other. The material published, including the Editorial, would suggest that it is the latter, i.e. toxic contaminants, that will form the major part of the subsequent issues and, as such, the title is perhaps misleading.

This first issue contains ten papers, covering a wide range of minor contaminants including chlorinated compounds, *N*-nitro compounds, veterinary drugs, aflatoxins, nitropolycyclic aromatics, cadmium, pesticides and herbicides and a study of migration measurements, including a collaborative trial. All of the papers are relatively short with the whole issue being only 71 pages, including the Editorial. The general scientific quality seems high. There appears to be no distinction between papers and what could be more accurately described as short communications. Indeed, in one of these short papers the conclusions are partially based on data not presented. The place of review papers in a journal such as this is debatable. However, the opinion of the present reviewer is that they can form the backbone of the journal and clearly help define its direction. Over the years the published reviews can then provide an excellent collection of 'state of the art' papers on specific techniques or areas of analysis. Quite clearly, reviews of only 2000 words, as, in this case, on mycotoxins, cannot hope to fulfil this rôle and papers such as this should be retitled 'summaries'. They do have a purpose, as an introduction to the literature, but they are not reviews.

The standard of typography and presentation is good, although

authors should be discouraged from typing the material on illustrations (p. 48). The number of papers published in this area of food science should guarantee the success of a project such as this, provided the major groups can be persuaded to contribute to the journal. Only subsequent issues will show whether sufficient papers of a sufficient standard can be attracted to establish the journal as the central forum the Editors hope it will become.

**R. Macrae**